Conversation Contents

Weekly Report to the Secretary - June 29, 2017

Attachments:

/26. Weekly Report to the Secretary - June 29, 2017/1.1
WeeklyReporttotheSecretary06-29-17.docx
/26. Weekly Report to the Secretary - June 29, 2017/2.1
WeeklyReporttotheSecretary06-29-17.docx

"Rees, Gareth" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>

From:	"Rees, Gareth" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>
Sent:	Thu Jun 29 2017 11:30:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Amy Holley <Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>, "Caminiti, Mariagrazia" <Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov>, Christine Bauserman <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Edward Keable <edward.keable@sol.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine Macgregor <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Haugrud <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Black <mike.black@bia.gov>, Nikolao Pula <Nikolao_Pula@ios.doi.gov>, Richard Cardinale <Richard_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Williams <Timothy_Williams@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Virginia Johnson <virginia_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Subject:	Weekly Report to the Secretary - June 29, 2017
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Good Afternoon All,

Please find attached the weekly report to the Secretary. I have attached both the word and Google Doc versions of the reports. If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

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Weekly Report to the Secretary 06-29-17

Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>

From:	Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>
Sent:	Tue Jul 04 2017 07:33:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	downey.magallanes@gmail.com
Subject:	Fwd: Weekly Report to the Secretary - June 29, 2017
Attachments:	WeeklyReporttotheSecretary06-29-17.docx

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rees, Gareth" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>
Date: June 29, 2017 at 1:30:42 PM EDT
To: Amy Holley <Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>, "Caminiti, Mariagrazia" <Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov>, Christine Bauserman <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Edward Keable <edward.keable@sol.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine Macgregor <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Haugrud <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Black <mike.black@bia.gov>, Nikolao Pula <Nikolao_Pula@ios.doi.gov>, Richard Cardinale <Richard_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Williams <Timothy_Williams@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Virginia Johnson <virginia_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
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Weekly Report to the Secretary 06-29-17

WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

June 29, 2017

Office of the Solicitor

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Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

Nothing additional to report.On July 2-12, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will hold its annual session in Krakow, Poland. The U.S. will send an observer delegation to the meeting: Casey Hammond representing the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks along with a NPS employee and two State Department representatives. The meeting affords an opportunity for DOI to learn about policies that could affect the U.S. World Heritage program and for informal conversations related to potential future U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List, such as the re-submission of a nomination for buildings by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Acting Assistant Secretary Johnson is working closely with the U.S. Navy to resolve an issue at Camp Pendleton related to the NPS's historic preservation responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. In 2012, the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) submitted the nomination of Trestles Historic District to the Navy. Trestles is part of San Onofre State Beach, which the Navy at Camp Pendleton leases to the State. The nomination is based on the significance of the beach to the California surfing culture. The Navy has historically and currently conducts training exercises in this area. After 5 years of negotiations, the NPS is reviewing the latest appeal and is expected to render a decision by July 28, 2017.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

For the week from July 7-11, FWS Acting Director Greg Sheehan will be out of the office to attend the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

On or around Friday, June 30, in conjunction with NOAA and EPA, FWS plans to publish the *Coastal Wetlands Loss Analysis: Summary Findings of Pilot Studies Conducted by the Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup*. FWS assisted in developing the report, which summarizes wetland loss assessments conducted in four coastal U.S. watersheds. The report was developed to support subsequent policy and management actions designed to decrease net wetland loss in coastal areas. It is not controversial. Stakeholders include NOAA and EPA, local, state and federal government organizations, and NGOs. The report will be made available online and disseminated to limited stakeholder groups primarily composed of representatives from government agencies with the purview to support coastal wetland conservation and restoration. No outreach is planned by FWS.

After the upcoming release of the Mexican wolf draft recovery plan, on or around Friday, June 30, and during the public comment period that follows, FWS will continue seeking review and comment on the peer-reviewed draft revision from local, state and federal agencies, tribes and the public in both the United States and Mexico. Due to the high level of visibility and controversy on Mexican wolf recovery in general, extensive outreach is planned including personal phone calls and public meetings. In addition, FWS will ensure information is readily available on the Mexican wolf recovery website and through social media (Facebook and Twitter). New postings will be done when key dates are occurring. To gain additional comments and feedback, FWS is hosting public meetings in Arizona and New Mexico on the updated Mexican wolf recovery plan between July 18 and July 22.

On or around July 5, FWS and partners will begin removal of Hunters Pond Dam in Scituate, Massachusetts. The project, partially funded by DOI's Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is a high priority for the restoration of river herring and will open up five miles of riverine channel and 200 acres of alewife pond spawning habitat. Partners include Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, NOAA, North and South Rivers Watershed Association, Town of Scituate and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. Local media and stakeholder outreach is planned.

On or around July 7, FWS, state, and local officials will celebrate the reopening of the White River National Fish Hatchery. The hatchery was severely damaged after Hurricane Irene in 2010 and it took congressional appropriations to repair the damage and reopen the facility. The facility will focus efforts on restoring land-locked Atlantic salmon and lake trout to Lake Champlain and its tributaries in Vermont, New York, and Quebec as well as lake trout in Lakes Erie and Ontario. The Vermont congressional delegation has been invited. Local media advisory and news release are planned with a possible pitch to AP, which has covered the story.

On or around July 7, through the Secretary, FWS plans to announce nearly $15 million in grants to 40 states for projects to support recreational boating through the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. More than $9 million of this will go to six states (California, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington) for competitive grants, and the remaining $5 million will go to 39 states, commonwealths, territories, and the District of Columbia for a smaller, non-competitive grant program. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels, and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft. Grants, which are matched by funding from project partners, support construction or renovation of tie-ups, utilities, fuel stations, pump-out and dump stations, restrooms, and additional sanitary amenities such as laundry and showers for recreational boaters. Outreach to be determined by the Department and includes the potential for a Secretarial event possibly in conjunction with the CVA grants announcement (see below). Outreach (news release and social media) can be done with local and national media outlets and special interest media such as boaters, anglers, marina owners and conservation organizations. This is not controversial.

On or around July 7, through the Secretary, FWS plans to announce nearly $15.4 million in

grants to 20 states for projects to support clean water and recreational boating through the Service's Clean Vessel Act Grant (CVA) program. The CVA program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia, and insular areas for the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft. Outreach to be determined by the Department and includes the potential for a Secretarial event possibly in conjunction with the BIG grants announcement (see above). Outreach (news release and social media) can be done with local and national media outlets and special interest media such as boaters, anglers, marina owners, and conservation organizations. This is not controversial.

National Park Service

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

On June 22, three plainclothes USPP officers approached four suspects on the National Mall and took enforcement action regarding illegal vending. All four were immediately handcuffed. During the investigation it was determined that the adult suspect, who had previously been contacted for illegal vending, was not involved in this case released. Although the ages of the other 3 young men were unknown, this investigation revealed they were juveniles (ages 16, 17, and 17). The officers, using their discretion, decided to release them, without charge, to their parents/guardians. There continues to be media and Congressional interest in this matter.

From now through September, preparations are underway for a major rehabilitation project at Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial. There will be periodic, partial closures of the house and site to accommodate the work. The site is expected to close completely in September for major construction, which is expected to last 18 months.

On July 5, Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota will start a new process of transferring horses from its demonstration herd to the public through GSA. The reduction of horses from the demonstration herd is necessary to reduce the number of horses in the park and maintain a healthy herd. This initial operation will collect up to five yearlings and foals and the park will continue to work with the longtime partners to help connect the horses with potential buyers. There has been limited local media interest at this time. Local Congressional staff has been notified.

On July 6, as part of the Anacostia Park Wetlands Management Plan, the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), under an agreement with the NPS, will round up and euthanize geese to regulate the resident population. The plan aims to restore the wetlands that surround the Anacostia River and eventually aid in restoring the river's health. This is the second

year the park has done a goose roundup in partnership with DOEE and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The meat will be donated to the DC Central Kitchen.

On July 8, the NPS anticipates the announcement of the $3,623,162 (possibly including an additional $1,189,000) in available Battlefield Land Acquisition grant funding. Grants will be used to protect 999 acres of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland. The NPS works with private landowners, battlefield friends groups, interested community groups, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, local, state, and tribal governments and Federal agencies for preservation projects and local acquisition of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield land. The NPS is working with the Secretary's office on an event and the communications plan.

CLOSE HOLD – LITIGATION-SETTLEMENT SENSITIVE) There are 24 families in Point Reyes National Seashore that operate historic beef and dairy ranches under agricultural lease/special use permits on approximately 28,000 acres of land within the Seashore. The Resource Renewal Institute, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Western Watersheds filed suit in 2016 (Resource Renewal Institute v NPS) challenging the General Management Plan for the Park claiming it was outdated and needed to evaluate whether ranching was a proper use of park resources. The Department of Justice expects to file the DOI recommended settlement agreement with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to end the litigation on or before July 8, 2017. The settlement stipulates a 4-year timeline for the NPS to complete a General Management Plan Amendment/EIS, and allows the NPS to issue interim authorizations to all current park ranch operations while NEPA is being conducted. Nearly all of the 24 ranching families operating in the park, as well as the County of Marin, have signed this settlement as Defendant-Intervenors. This issue was raised during a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on June 28, 2017 by one of the witnesses, Ms. Caroline Lobdell, the Executive Director of the Western Resources Legal Center. Ms. Lobdell, who represents some of the Ranchers impacted by this litigation, raised concern that the Ranchers were unable to receive full intervention status in the case and that NPS may have capitulated to the plaintiffs because NPS issued one year leases rather than longer permits. NPS needed to conduct a NEPA analysis in order to issue longer permits, which will occur as part of the settlement agreement described above. Once the settlement is public, the NEPA process will move forward. There will be heavy local and regional media interest regarding this settlement announcement.

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On June 28, there will be a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs roundtable discussion on broadband access in Indian Country. Minority staff seeks a DOI-Indian Affairs representative to discuss the need and challenges of accessing broadband in Indian Country and BIE schools.

On July 7, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will hold a field hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico on Native American Art and Crafts authentic crafts and fraudulent crafts.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

June 30 will be the last day for Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management – Indian Affairs James Burckman.

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

In early July, upon recommendation from the BOEM, ASLM is considering a proposal to implement of a 12.5% royalty rate for oil and gas production in shallow water depths only for leases offered in GOM Lease Sale 249, which is scheduled to take place on August 16, 2017. Bids for leasing in shallow waters have been in steady decline, primarily due the high incidents of natural gas in shallow water depths, which compete unfavorably with more onshore gas resource plays. If approved, the Bureau will make the announcement using a Note to Stakeholders and affected governors will be notified via correspondence.

During the month of July, the U.S. Army will undertake a munitions cleanup in public access areas at BLM-CA's Fort Ord National Monument**.** Fort Ord is located about ten miles northeast of Monterey and is in the Central California District Office. The cleanup encompasses about 800 acres of BLM-managed lands and Army-managed lands in the northern portion of the monument. The first phase of cleanup is cutting vegetation, which will require road and trail closures. Phase two will include prescribed burning.

On July 3, BLM-AK will review and provide comments on the Donlin Gold preliminary final EIS for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lead agency for the project. Donlin Gold LLC applied for permits for an open pit, hard rock gold mine located approximately 277 miles west of Anchorage, in southwest AK. The project also requires transportation infrastructure and a pipeline.

During the week of July 3, BOEM plans to initiate the process of developing a new Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Program (Five Year Program) with publication of a Request for Information and Comments. The decision to undertake a new Five Year OCS Program is currently scheduled to be announced on June 29 at an Energy Summit hosted by the Department of Energy. As required by section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, notification letters will be sent to all 50 Governors and several Federal agencies. This action will be taken pursuant the April 28, 2017, Executive Order entitled, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" and Secretary's Order 3350, issued on May 1, 2017.

On July 5, BLM-NM Acting Rio Puerco Field Manager Angel Martinez will meet with the Governor of the Zia Pueblo Tribe at the Zia Pueblo. Among the topics they will discuss are the possibility of a local shooting range and access to the local off-highway vehicle area.

On July 7, the Federal Register will publish the NOA of the Draft EIS for the Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) Natural Gas Development Project. The proposed project, which was submitted by Jonah Energy LLC, could unlock 5.25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, providing a reliable, long-term energy source for the nation and creating more than 700 full-time jobs and

stable employment opportunities for southwestern Wyoming. The project could also create $2.2 billion in royalties, half of which would go to the State of Wyoming.

Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Field Hearing

- Who: Indian Arts and Crafts Board and FWS Office of Law Enforcement
- What: Hearing before Senator Tom Udall (NM), Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and Senator Martin Heinrich (NM).
- When: Friday, July 7, 10:00 am local time
- Where: Santa Fe, NM (Santa Fe Indian School)
- Press: Local media will attend
- Topics: "Cultural Sovereignty Series: Modernizing the Indian Arts and Crafts Act to Honor Native Identity and Expression (strengthening the Indian Arts and Crafts Act)"

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

Suspension and Debarment Actions. On June 9, 2017, DOI debarred Danelle Arlene Newman based on her conviction for mail fraud in connection with the Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations (Program), managed by the DOI Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST). Between January 2013 and July 2014, Newman illegally received $22,295.00 through the Program by fraudulently executing official forms, misrepresenting herself as another person in calls to the OST Trust Beneficiary Call Center, and on three separate occasions, fraudulently executing a Deed to Restricted Indian Lands belonging to another individual.

Year 2017 Small Business Accomplishments to Date. As of June 22, 2017, the Department has awarded 55.02% of its contract award dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal, which was negotiated with the Small Business Administration (SBA), is 53.5%. The Department awarded 21.82% of its contract award dollars to small disadvantaged businesses and 14.12% of its contract award dollars to women-owned small businesses, exceeding the statutory goal of 5% for each. The Department awarded 3.53% of its contract award dollars to historically underutilized business zone small businesses and 3.72% of its contract award dollars to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The statutory goal is 3% for each of these categories.

Internal Control and Audit Follow-up. The Department has an annual goal of closing 85 percent of corrective actions scheduled for closure in the current FY to address issues raised in OIG and GAO engagements. As of June 23, 2017, the Department has closed 37 percent of open audit recommendations scheduled for closure in FY 2017.

Royalty Policy Committee. ONRR issued a Federal Register Notice to extend the nomination period for the Royalty Policy Committee (Committee) by an additional 30 days. On April 3, 2017, the Department of the Interior published a notice establishing the Committee and requesting nominations. The last submission date for Committee nominations is now July 3, 2017.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

In the coming weeks, the Department will release a new USGS report on critical minerals for the United States. This publication presents resource and geologic information for 23 mineral commodities currently viewed as important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. The report provides an in-depth look at each commodity's use, distribution of deposit types, and current status of production, resources, and reserves. The individual commodity chapters serve as an update to the 1973 commodity chapters of USGS Professional Paper 820, United States Mineral Resources. A DOI news release is planned.

30-60 DAY LOOK-AHEAD

Office of the Solicitor

SIGNIFICANT LITIGATION DEADLINES FOR NEXT THREE WEEKS SEPARATELY REPORTED

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

On August 28, federal agencies will begin selling the new America the Beautiful Senior Pass which allows lifetime access to certain federal lands. The price will increase from $10 to $80. The NPS and DOI Communications Offices as well as the NPS and DOI legislative offices are working on the announcement plan. The new date has not yet been announced publicly.

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

FWS will seek public input to identify potential issues and concerns, impacts, and alternatives to be considered in development of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County, California. This action is not expected to be controversial. Interested stakeholders are oil and gas operators and environmental organizations in Santa Barbara County, California. Outreach will be targeted to Santa Barbara County area media, congressional staff and stakeholders. FWS will offer a briefing with staff from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Environmental Office in advance of Federal Register notification of public comment period. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is July 17.

Grants

By July 15, FWS plans to announce approximately $1 million in white-nose syndrome grants to states. The grants will help states respond to the deadly white-nose syndrome disease of bats through actions such as looking for the fungus that causes the disease, carrying out decontamination procedures at state caves and mines, and monitoring bat populations. White-nose syndrome is a disease caused by a fungus that has killed millions of valuable insect-eating bats and has been found in 31 states. Recent studies show that the agricultural value of insect control by bats is $1.4 billion annually in Texas alone. FWS leads the national response to the disease. This action is not controversial. A news release and outreach to interested stakeholders is planned and will be coordinated with Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and state wildlife directors.

Pending Departmental clearance, FWS will announce the approval of around $4 million in grants for 31 projects throughout the Americas as part of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant program. Exact date and award amount are not yet determined. News release and outreach to bird-centric media are planned. This is not controversial.

Pending Departmental advisement, FWS will approve a slate of projects for funding under the

Competitive State Wildlife Grants program. The projects focus on "species of greatest conservation need" identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. Funds for this program are appropriated annually by Congress. FWS Regional Offices will submit individual grants for DOI approval prior to award. This is not controversial. No outreach is planned.

Asian Carp

On July 10, Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) is hosting a public event in suburban Cleveland to discuss Great Lakes issues. Representative Kaptur is inviting several experts to sit on the panel and answer audience questions about the Great Lakes ecological issues. FWS Midwest Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley will attend and answer questions about Asian carp. Other groups represented will include NOAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio Sea Grant/Stone Laboratory.

This summer, the 2016 Water Resources Reform and Development Act Report to Congress on Asian carp will be finalized. Notable changes from the 2015 report include the slight range expansion of silver carp, the movement of juvenile Asian carps in the sub-basins and additional information on the status of black carp. As in previous years, the 2016 report will be made available to the public on AsianCarp.us. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, includes direction from Congress to FWS to lead a multiagency effort to slow the spread of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. Specifically, WRRDA calls for the FWS to develop and deliver a report to Congress summarizing all activities and expenditures (both federal and non-federal) related to Asian carp prevention efforts in the two watersheds, as well as describing any observed changes in the range of Asian carp in Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins. The report also outlines research that could improve the ability to control the spread of Asian carp and quantitative measures proposed for use in documenting progress in controlling the spread of Asian carp. This is potentially controversial due to the slight range expansion of silver carp. No public outreach is planned. FWS will conduct outreach to Congress.

Endangered Species Act Recovery Actions

FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. The cost of certain actions pertaining to habitat acquisition, restoration, and management is listed as "To be decided," reflecting the considerable uncertainty around what the actual cost of those actions will be once completed. Stakeholders include federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, local agricultural communities and local municipalities as it concerns water usage. This action is not expected to be controversial, although the estimated costs of voluntary actions and actions needed for recovery could generate local stakeholder and media attention. Planned outreach includes early notifications to stakeholders, news release to local media and postings to website and social media. This is pending clearance by the Department.

On July 19-20, FWS will host public scoping meetings in Central Oregon to gather information to prepare a draft environmental impact statement related to the Deschutes Basin Habitat

Conservation Plan. The Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the City of Prineville are the permit applicants for the incidental take of three listed species: Oregon spotted frog, bull trout, and steelhead. Media is expected. Stakeholders include local farmers, irrigators, and recreationists. WaterWatch of Oregon, Center for Biological Diversity, Coalition for the Deschutes, Trout Unlimited and the Deschutes River Conservancy will likely get involved in the NEPA process. This will be regionally controversial. Outreach is planned to alert the public to the meetings. There will be a news release, social media posts, and outreach to local and state representatives. Phone calls will be made and emails sent to the partners already listed in the report item. The meetings are just the first step in the scoping process, so there will be follow-up outreach with interested partners after the meetings.

On or around August 4, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring plan and reopen the public comment period on the proposed rule to delist the black-capped vireo. The post-delisting monitoring plan will be finalized in concert with the decision on the final delisting rule in January 2018. This action may become controversial. Stakeholders include the petitioners, Pacific Legal Foundation, the Office of Travis Co. Judge, Big Bend National Park, and others. There have been a number of public comments opposing the delisting of the black-capped vireo, and a number of partner agencies concerned about having the necessary funds to implement the ongoing management needs (cowbird removal) and monitoring identified for their lands, which may also result in concerns about the viability of both the delisting and the post-delisting monitoring plan. Planned outreach will include notifications to local stakeholders, a press release to local media and social media posts.

On or around August 4, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring plan, and reopen the public comment period on the proposed rule to delist the lesser long-nosed bat. The post-delisting monitoring plan will be finalized in concert with the decision on the final delisting rule in January 2018. This action is not controversial. Stakeholders are the Pacific Legal Foundation and the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. Planned outreach will include notifications to local stakeholders, a press release to local media, and social media posts.

Endangered Species Act Listing/Delisting Actions

Pending clearance, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final listing determination for the i'iwi, a Hawaiian bird. This action is not controversial. The only interested stakeholder groups are the petitioners, Center for Biological Diversity comment and Life Net. FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the finding for the i'iwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media.

On or around July 14, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice announcing a six-month extension of the final determination of whether to list the San Fernando Valley spineflower, a plant species from southern California, as a result of substantial scientific disagreement concerning the species. This notice will also reopen the comment period on the proposed rule to list the species for an additional 30 days. The spineflower listing is locally

controversial, but filing a six-month extension is not expected to be controversial. In August, the FWS will announce the availability of a draft Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for public comment that outlines conservation measures to benefit the San Fernando Valley spineflower. The CCA was prepared in collaboration with Newhall Land and Farming Company. The interested stakeholder is Newhall Ranch. Outreach will include stakeholder notifications and posting of notice to field office newsroom.

On or around July 17, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to list the Louisiana pine snake, located in Louisiana and Texas, as a threatened species with a 4(d) rule. This action is controversial. Stakeholders include the U.S. Army, the U.S. Forest Service, State and private landowners and the timber industry. Planned outreach will include notifications to stakeholders and relevant members of Congress, press release to local media and social media posts.

On or around July 19, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice reopening for public comment the proposed listing of western glacier stonefly and meltwater lednian stonefly, located in Montana and Wyoming, as threatened species. The reopening will allow the public to comment on new range information regarding western glacier stonefly. This action is not expected to be controversial. Interested stakeholders include WildEarth Guardians and the States of Montana and Wyoming. A regional news release is planned.

On or around July 28, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final rule to remove the eastern cougar (historically known to exist in southeastern Ontario, southern Quebec and New Brunswick in Canada and a region bounded from Maine to Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and South Carolina in the eastern United States) from the list of endangered and threatened species due to extinction. Although we do not anticipate major public controversy with regard to the final rule, opposition to our conclusion of extinction may be expressed by advocates and advocacy organizations for puma and large predator conservation who maintain that eastern cougars still exist. However, the best available information indicates that sightings of cougars in the east are cases of mistaken identity (with bobcats) or escaped captive animals or, rarely, cougars from western populations dispersing eastwards. Interested parties include eastern U.S. states, the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Cougar Network. National news bulletin and Congressional emails are planned.

On or around August 1, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii Island and correct the maps for existing designations for an additional four species there. We intend to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private landowners under Section 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the State of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the County of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a news release, social media, emails, and phone calls to Congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above.

On or around August 2, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* 90-day petition findings for five species: the oblong rocksnail, sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub, tricolored bat, and Venus flytrap. As part of this batched finding we are publishing a correction to the 90-day finding for leopards which clarifies the range and the entity we are evaluating in our status review. The

findings in this batch are not expected to be controversial, however, the substantial 90-day finding for the tricolored bat might generate attention, given that the primary threat to it is white-nosed syndrome (which is threatening other bat species across North America). Stakeholders for the tricolored bat include the wind, oil and gas industries, federal forest land managers (Department of Defense, Forest Service, National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management), private forest landowners, States, Canada and Mexico, federal academic researchers (U.S. Geological Survey and universities), the caving community, and local municipalities and homeowners who have bats on their property. Stakeholders for the other species include the Center for Biological Diversity, Cahaba River Keeper, WildEarth Guardians, Defenders of Wildlife, the Humane Society, International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Fund for Animals and several individuals. Outreach will include notifications to stakeholders and petitioners and a low-key national news bulletin to media.

On or around August 4, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a 12-month finding and proposed delisting determination on the Deseret milkvetch, found in Utah. The Service concluded that the threats (residential development, highway widening, livestock grazing, and small population size) either have not occurred to the extent anticipated, are being adequately managed, or the species is more tolerant of the stressor than originally known. Interested stakeholders include the petitioner, Western Area Power Administration, entities that own lands occupied by the species, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Utah Division of Transportation. Planned outreach will include a regional news release, emailing the news release to relevant congressional offices, and phone calls to the respective state wildlife directors. This is not expected to garner national attention.

National Wildlife Refuge Actions

By the end of July, FWS will publish a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach.

Migratory Bird Management Actions

Only July 17, FWS plans to announce new regulations that will allow the sale, including consignment sale, of authentic Alaska Native handicrafts or clothing that incorporate nonedible migratory bird parts. Handicrafts must be made from migratory birds harvested for food during the subsistence season. There are 27 bird species from which parts may be used.
On or around July 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* its annual proposal for administering tribal hunting, fishing and gathering rights under multiple treaties for several federally recognized tribes in the Great Lakes region. The proposal has been compiled in consultation with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, which represents 11 tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. FWS has informed the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan DNRs of the agency's support for these proposed regulations. A final decision will not be made until after public comments are reviewed and would not take effect until the fall

2017 hunting season. The proposal is expected to be controversial due to the inclusion of several new techniques for tribal members to take waterfowl, including electronic calls, hand held nets and snares, and use of these nets at night.

Other

On July 11, FWS will host a State-Tribe American Ginseng Program Coordination Meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia. American ginseng is a native plant extensively harvested for its roots for export to Asia where they are highly valued for their medicinal properties. Due to the high volume of international trade of wild ginseng, the species is included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Appendix II allows trade that is biologically sustainable and legal. The meeting will bring together the state and tribe ginseng program coordinators to discuss pressing current issues facing wild ginseng, management efforts, and necessary steps to improve the long-term sustainability of ginseng. The meeting is part of FWS's ongoing efforts to improve coordination and consultation with states and tribes to ensure that FWS continues to meet its responsibility that exports of American ginseng are legal and sustainable. Immediately after the 1-day coordination meeting, is a 2-day (July 12-13) symposium on the "The Future of American Ginseng and Forest Botanicals." The symposium, coordinated by the United Plant Savers and in collaboration with FWS, and supported by several herbal product companies, will present new biological and management information on the conservation and trade of American ginseng and other economically important forest plants that provide revenue to local economies, particularly the Appalachian Region.

National Park Service

On or about July 9, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is scheduled to host the Honorable Rick Colless, Member of the Legislative Council in New South Wales, Australia, who serves as the Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources. He is visiting as part of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association study tour to the U.S. and Canada, and he has expressed specific interest in northern California and Yellowstone. They are interested in visits to national forests and parks and meetings with industry stakeholders to discuss forest and park management, natural resource management, conservation, and commercial logging policies and practices.

In early July, the National Mall and Memorial Parks will drain the pond in Constitution Gardens for cleaning and maintenance. It is expected to be empty for approximately a week. Work will not commence until after the July 4th holiday. Neither of these projects are related to the recent draining of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool because of elevated parasite levels.

On July 11, the NPS will meet with representatives of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to begin negotiations regarding the Tribe's proposal for compacting certain NPS functions at the park. A pre-negotiation meeting regarding the request was held in late May. The Tribe is seeking to manage maintenance and interpretation & education functions in the park in FY-18.

In July, the NPS anticipates the announcement of the $1.75 million in available Maritime Heritage project grant funding. These grants will be used for maritime heritage education and

preservation projects related to the maritime heritage of the United States. The National Maritime Heritage Act established the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program within the Department of the Interior. The grants program is administered in partnership with the Maritime Administration. It provides funding for education and preservation projects designed to preserve historic maritime resources and is funded through a percentage of the proceeds from the sale or scrapping of obsolete vessels of the National Defense Reserve Fleet. All grants awarded must be matched on a 1-to-1 basis with non-Federal assets.

In July, the NPS will announce the award of $18 million in centennial challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-federal funds. The NPS is coordinating with DOI Communications on the public announcement and notification to the recipients.

In July, the NPS anticipates the announcement of $15 million in Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant funding for approximately 25 projects. A total of 51 projects were submitted by states to acquire and develop outdoor recreation spaces. This competitive program supplements the annual Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment to states by supporting projects for disadvantaged populations in urban areas. The NPS is coordinating with DOI Communications on the public announcement and notification to the recipients

In July, the NPS will announce the apportionment of $1,635,742 in Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act grants to fund repatriation and reburial projects. The grants will assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and funerary objects back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA requires museums and Federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections, and to consult with Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding repatriation. Section 10 of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implementing provisions of the Act. The NPS will coordinate with DOI Communications on the public announcement and notification to the recipients

In July, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park fire assessment review will be released. In February, a team of fire experts (federal and state) convened at Great Smoky Mountains National Park to conduct an independent review of the 2016 Chimney Tops 2 fire that started in the park on November 23. The purpose of the review is to assess the facts leading up to and during the Chimney Tops 2 fire within the boundaries of the park, as well as make recommendations on any planning, operational, or managerial issues which can be addressed locally, regionally, and/or nationally to reduce the chances of a similar incident in the future. The NPS has received tort claims related to this incident and expects additional lawsuits soon.

In July, the NPS will announce $21 million in grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to States and Territories. Grants will be awarded to 59 State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act 115-31. SHPO grants receive minor press coverage when the awards are announced. Several SHPOs have contacted the NPS about their inability to meet payroll because of the late appropriation.

In July, the NPS will announce $4.5 million in grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Indian Tribes. Grants will be awarded to 169 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act PL115-31. THPO grants receive minor press coverage when the awards are announced. Several THPOs have contacted us about inability to meet payroll because of the late appropriation.

In July, the NPS anticipates the announcement of $500,000 in Tribal Heritage grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Indian Tribes. Grants will be awarded to 14 Tribes, based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act PL 115-31 and reapportioned funding from PL 114-113. Tribal Heritage grants receive press coverage when the awards are announced.

On or about July 17, the FY 16 Annual Report on the Economic Impact of the Federal Historic Tax Credit is expected to be issued. The report finds that the $6.5 billion of private investment in historic rehabilitation for FY16 produced an estimated 109,000 jobs and benefited the national economy with over $12.3 billion in output, $6.2 billion in GDP, and $1.7 billion in taxes generated. The report was undertaken by the NPS through a cooperative agreement with the Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research and documents the wide breadth of economic impacts of the credit, as well as the cumulative impacts of the program since the program's inception in 1976 -- $13l.8 billion in leveraged private investment in the historic rehabilitation, over 42,000 certified projects, and over 2.44 million jobs. Commonly known as the Historic Tax Credit, the program provides a 20-percent federal tax credit to property owners who undertake a substantial rehabilitation of a historic building in a business or income-producing use, while maintaining its historic character. The program is administered by the NPS and the Internal Revenue Service, in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Offices. The NPS certifies that a historic building is eligible for the program and that its rehabilitation meets preservation standards

On July 18, t the NPS will hold public meetings in Flagstaff, Arizona, seeking public input into the replacement of the Grand Canyon National Park's 12.5 mile long Trans-canyon Pipeline that conveys water from Roaring Springs located below the North Rim to the Indian Gardens Pump Station at the South Rim. This essential component of Grand Canyon's infrastructure is 44 years old, putting it well past its normal life expectancy. The pipeline is the sole source of water supporting park operations on the South Rim, providing all drinking and utility water for more than 4.7 million annual visitors and 2,500 year-round residents.

In mid-July, Mojave National Preserve will begin a 60-day public comment period on the Water Resources Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (WRP/DEIS). The plan will manage both developed (diverted springs and wildlife guzzlers) and undeveloped water resources in the park. The process is being closely watched by local hunting groups interested in the management of wildlife guzzlers (large basins which catch rainwater and provide a watering source for wildlife and cattle), which are viewed as necessary to maintaining a healthy bighorn sheep population for hunting.

In late July, George Washington Parkway will begin the work to clean, wax, and re-gild the U.S.

Marine Corps War Memorial, commonly referred to as the Iwo Jima Memorial. Visitor access will be affected. The project also includes engraving *Iraq* and *Afghanistan* on the memorial to honor those who served. The park will notify stakeholders of the project's potential impacts. The project was made possible by a donation from philanthropist David Rubenstein.

On August 18, Olympic National Park will host a special event at Hurricane Ridge celebrating the renaming of the Olympic Wilderness to the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness by a 2016 act of Congress. Evans, a former Washington state governor and U.S. Senator, was the lead sponsor of the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988. Evans will speak at the event and various Congress members and/or staff are expected to among the estimated 150 participants. The NPS is working on a communications plan and will coordinate with DOI Communications Office.

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education

July 10 is the new deadline for public comments for the Bears Ears National Monument, and the deadline for comments on all other monument designations under review.

On July 12, a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing on S.943, Johnson-O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act is scheduled. An invitation for a Departmental witness is expected.

July 15 is the deadline for comments on E.O 13871, how Interior and the Federal government can be reorganized.

On July 19, a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing oversight hearing on Indian Gaming is scheduled.

On July 19-20, the Self-Governance Advisory Committee quarterly meeting will place at the Embassy Suites DC Convention Center, 900 10th St NW, Washington, DC 20001. The Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs is invited to attend on Thursday, July 20.

On July 24, the Department's Office of Policy Analysis will hold an Indian Economic Development Data workshop preceding the Tribal-Interior Budget Council meeting, at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, 22181 Resort Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ.

On July 25-27, The Tribal-Interior Budget Council (TIBC) will meet at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, 22181 Resort Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ.

On July 26, a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs oversight hearing on "Human Trafficking" is scheduled.

August 12 is the deadline for proposals from Tribes for the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development's (IEED's) FY 2017 Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) economic development feasibility study grant program. This grant program has,

among other successes, enabled the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to build an industrial park and restore a 66-mile rail line that opens an east-west connection to four major north-south rail corridors for regional commerce.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Regulations Ready for OS Review

- None at this time.

Regulations Pending Departmental Review, Then Ready for AS-IA Signature

- **Proposed rules pending publication:**
    - **Indian Electric Power Utilities (25 CFR 175):** This proposed rule would not make any substantive changes to the regulations, but would revise the regulations to be in plain language. The regulations affect only a limited number of Tribes because there are only three BIA electric power utilities: Colorado River (serving the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation), Mission Valley Power (serving the Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Indian Reservation), and San Carlos Irrigation Project (serving Gila River Indian Community).
        - *Status:* The proposed rule will be presented to the AS-IA transition contact in preparation for AS-IA signature.

Upcoming FACA Committee Notices

- **BIE Negotiated Rulemaking on Accountability (25 CFR 30):** The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires BIE to use a negotiated rulemaking process to develop regulations for implementation no later than the 2017-2018 academic year and to define the standards, assessments, and accountability system consistent with Section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the schools funded by BIE on a national, regional, or tribal basis.
    - *Status:* [No Change] BIE is preparing a new notice of intent to establish the committee and solicitation for membership.

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

During the week of July 10, OSMRE anticipates submitting the Bull Hill # 2 mine plan decision documents to the ASLM for approval. Located in Latimer County, OK, the mine is owned by Farrell-Cooper Mining, employs 36 people, and contains approximately 384,000 tons of recoverable Federal coal.

During the week of July 10, OSMRE anticipates publishing a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day comment period. The Bridger Coal Company's Bridger Mine is an underground mine located in Sweetwater County, WY that employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.

During the week of July 10, OSMRE plans to publish a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the Cordero Rojo Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

On July 10, BOEM plans to publish the Record of Decision for a project to rehabilitate 4 miles of shoreline damaged by Hurricane Matthew in Martin County, FL. The Bureau will enter into a 3-party agreement with Martin County and the US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge up to 1,000,000 cubic yards of OCS sand.

On July 10, four individuals charged with various crimes during the 2014 Gold Butte cattle impoundment are scheduled to be re-tried in U.S. District Court, Las Vegas, following the declaration of a mistrial on April 24, 2017. The BLM communications team has and will continue to coordinate with DOI communications on public statements or related materials.

On July 11, BLM Cultural and Law Enforcement program staff will meet with the GAO to discuss looting and trafficking of Native American artifacts. GAO requested the meeting as part of its current focus on looting and trafficking and to follow-up on its prior review of Federal agency compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

On July 11, BSEE Director Scott Angelle is scheduled to speak at the American Petroleum Institute's Safe Lifting Conference in Houston, TX. The conference will cover lifting operations and standards for platform-based cranes.

On July 13, BOEM plans to hold an Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting in San Luis Obispo, CA to discuss the results of the collaborative data and information collection efforts and the potential areas identified for the Call for Information and Nominations (Call). Development of the Call was necessitated by an application for a commercial lease submitted by Trident Wind offshore Morrow Bay, CA in January 2016 and competitive interest indicated by Statoil in its response to the subsequent Request for Information in August 2016.

On July 14, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at a meeting of the National Ocean Industries Association's Legislative Strategy Group in Washington, DC.

From July 14 to August 25, BLM-AK plans a temporary shutdown of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Alyeska Pipeline Services Company plans safety and integrity protection system downloads requiring short-term shutdowns for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System this summer. The BLM Alaska Branch of Pipeline Monitoring will observe the shutdowns.

In mid-July, OSMRE's Western Region plans to publish a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the John Henry Mine Mining Plan Modification draft EA and unsigned FONSI, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Pacific Coast Coal Company's John Henry Mine is a surface mine located in King County, WA. This coal mine has been inactive since 1999.

In mid to late July, BLM-CA anticipates the completion of the proposed Hester land exchange. The exchange will result in the BLM's acquisition of approximately 550 acres of non-Federal lands within the new Sand to Snow National Monument in Riverside County, in exchange for 40 acres of Federal mineral interests located on private property in San Diego County. The exchange finalizes restitution of a trespass settlement that began in 2013. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA-5) has been a strong advocate for the exchange and the BLM is keeping him informed of its progress.

On July 17, BOEM plans to publish the Final Notice of Sale and Record of Decision for GOM Lease Sale 249. The sale is scheduled for August 16 and will be the first lease sale under the 2017-2022 OCS Oil & Gas Program as well as the first region-wide sale.

During the week of July 17, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will attend individual meetings with members of the AK Congressional delegation to discuss offshore developing in the Arctic OCS region leading in to his trip to AL the following week.

On July 18 – 20, Acting ASLM Kate MacGregor will participate in the 15th annual Governor's Trail Ride hosted by the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Governor Butch Otter. The event, which will take place on historic ranchland in the Upper Snake River Valley, is designed to provide an opportunity to explore natural resource issues and will include discussions about improvements to the Federal grazing permit process and sustainable land use.
On July 18 – 21, BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program Division Chief Dean Bolstad will participate, together with representatives from Federal and international agencies, academics and non-profit organizations, on a panel at the 8th International Wildlife Fertility Control conference in Washington, D.C., to discuss key needs and challenges regarding fertility control for wild horses and wildlife. The conference will be hosted by the Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control, a partnership between The Humane Society of the United States and the Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation.

On July 18 and 25, BLM-Eastern States (ES), in conjunction with the US Forest Service, will hold public meetings in St. Paul, MN, and Virginia, MN, to solicit comments regarding the proposed 20-year withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Federal minerals from national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River Watershed. Public comments received during project scoping will inform development of an EIS to study the proposed mineral withdrawal. The USFS is the lead agency for developing the EIS, and the BLM is a cooperating agency. BLM Northeastern States District Manager Dean Gettinger will attend.
On July 19, BLM plans to hold an auction of Federally-owned crude helium. Under the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the BLM must offer for auction and sale annually a portion of the helium reserves stored underground at the Cliffside Gas Field, near Amarillo, TX. The BLM anticipates auctioning 500 MMcf in a total of 30 lots for delivery in FY 2018. Following the auction, the BLM will offer an allocated sale in which helium is offered to refiners, and a non-allocated sale in which the helium is offered to non-refiners.

On July 19, OSMRE, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and State regulatory authorities will meet in St. Louis to re-initiate Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, as a result of the nullification of the Stream Protection Rule and the 2016 Biological

Opinion. An internal draft of the Biological Assessment (BA) is under review by an interdisciplinary team and is expected to be completed, including all OSMRE and Solicitor reviews, by July 14, to allow the BA to be submitted to USFWS by the first week of August.

On July 22, the BLM-OR/WA Lakeview Resource Area plans to hold an open house to discuss ongoing work with a private, non-profit partner to develop a multi-prong approach to managing the Beatty Butte Herd Management Area. For the first time, an external partner will work with BLM staff to bait trap horses, administer PZP to mares, and gentle horses considered good candidates for adoption.

On July 24, BLM-CA's Arcata Field Office will close its public protest period on a proposed amendment to the Headwaters Forest Reserve Management Plan. The amendment enables the field office to expand forest restoration activities beyond those from the original management plan completed in 2004. The BLM received few comments, which were all positive, during the public comment period on plan amendment development. The BLM and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife jointly manage the 7,400-acre reserve.

On July 28, BOEM will publish a Notice of Availability of the Final Supplemental EIS for the Cape Wind Project. The EIS will supplement the 2009 Final EIS and is being prepared pursuant to a remand order from the D.C. Circuit Court. The ROD will publish on August 11.

On July 28, BOEM plans to publish the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS for the Development and Production Plan for the Hilcorp Liberty Project. The Liberty Project is a 9-acre man-made gravel island proposed to be constructed approximately 5.6 miles offshore in the Beaufort Sea that would be capable of facilitating both drilling and processing operations.

On July 28, the BLM anticipates publishing proposed revisions to the Waste Prevention Rule in the Federal Register.

In late July or early August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Dry Fork Mine (WY) Mining Plan decision documents to OSMRE headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Western Fuels' Dry Fork mine is a surface mining complex located in Campbell County, WY that employs 82 people. Estimated production per year is 6 million tons.

On August 2, BLM-WO staff will meet with an International Visitor Leadership Program group hosted by the University of Montana at Main Interior. The University has requested that Secretary Zinke greet the group. Timothy Fisher, BLM program management analyst from the National Conservation Landscape Program, will meet with the group to discuss the BLM's multiple use mission and priority programs.

On August 3, BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold the spring land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with SNPLMA, funds generated by the sale will be used for projects such as the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

In early to mid-August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Cordero Rojo Mine's Mining Plan decision documents to Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

In early to mid-August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Belle Ayr Mine's Mining Plan decision documents to OSMRE headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Contura Coal West, LLC's Belle Ayr Coal Mine is a surface coal mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 259 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

On August 10, OSMRE's Western Region anticipates releasing for public comment a draft EIS for Western Energy Company's Rosebud Coal Mine Area F, located near Colstrip, MT. The proposed permit area for Area F would add 6,746 acres to the 25,576-acre surface coal mine. The mine currently employs 400 people, and produces 12.3 million tons per year.

On August 23 - 24, 2017, OSMRE's Mid-Continent Region (MCR) will hold an All-States Meeting, in Kansas City, MO. The meeting allows the MCR and its 11 states to exchange information on updates to regulations, policies, trends, technology, grants, personnel and budget issues.

On August 22, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Deepwater Technology Symposium in New Orleans, and then hold various stakeholder meetings in the Gulf region.

On September 19, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association's annual meeting in Lafayette, LA.

On September 20, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Center for Offshore Safety's Annual Forum in Houston, TX.

Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget

OMB Travel. Mike Hagan and Ben Burnett, Interior Branch Examiners, are planning to travel to Montana and North Dakota to review energy programs. The Office of Budget is working on initial details for the trip.

FY 2019 Budget Formulation. Bureau FY 2019 Submissions to the Department are due on Friday, July 7, to the Office of Budget. POB will hold meetings with Bureaus and DOI Leadership July 11-13.

Border Security Meetings, Santa Ana, TX, July 6, 2017. Interagency Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew and new Coordinator Brent Range will attend a planning meeting with National Wildlife Refuge staff and U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities personnel at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Pre-planning activities, including

proposed geotechnical surveys, will be reviewed. Visits to possible construction sites may also be conducted.

Border Coordination Meetings, San Diego, July 11-12, 2017. Interagency Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew and new Coordinator Brent Range will attend coordination meetings with Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Border Patrol field personnel in the San Diego area. They will also attend the San Diego Sector Borderlands Management Task Force Meeting on July 11.

Border Security Forum, Tucson, AZ, September 2017. A border wide leadership meeting on southwest border security and environmental protection is still expected to take place in September 2017 in Tucson, AZ. Planning for possible new border security infrastructure is expected to be the main focus of the meeting. Senior officials at DOI, CBP, U.S. Border Patrol and USDA Forest Service are expected to attend. A specific date has not been determined at this time.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting August 7-12, 2017. The Office of Policy Analysis (PPA), the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, and the State of Florida are coordinating the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) biannual meeting to be held in Ft. Lauderdale, with a public Business Meeting to be held on August 11. The Governor of Florida will host the meeting and will tentatively make remarks at the Business Meeting. The theme of the meeting is "Healthy Reefs for a Healthy Economy" and the focus of discussion will be on the value of coral reefs and local actions taken to address key issues in the Florida reef tract. The meeting will include several progress reports on implementation of the USCRTF Strategy and FY16-20 Framework for Action.

GAO Entrance Conferences

North American Energy Integration and Security (Job Code 102037) – June 29, 2017, with Office of International Affairs Personnel. Per request by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, GAO will review: (1) actions U.S. agencies have taken in regards to North American energy integration and the extent to which these agencies coordinate their efforts; (2) U.S. government agencies' communication and interaction with their counterparts in Mexico and Canada in regards to North American energy integration; (3) U.S. agencies' communication and interaction with industry and civil society regarding North American energy integration; and (4) options stakeholders have identified in infrastructure, border processing, and labor collaboration that the U.S. government could implement to better integrate the North American energy market.

GAO Exit Conference/Pending Reports

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Financial Management System Modernization (Job Code 100679) - June 27, 2017, with Interior Business Center (IBC) Personnel. Per response to a congressional mandate included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, GAO reviewed: (1) risks of DHS' outsourcing its financial management system modernization

efforts to the IBC; (2) IBC's capabilities for expanding its services to additional Federal agencies; and (3) services and capabilities of Federal and commercial shared service providers.

Recent Draft GAO Reports (Per GAO, distribution is highly restricted)

Data Center Optimization: Agencies Need to Address Challenges and Improve Progress to Achieve Cost Savings Goal (GAO-17-448). Per request from the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its Subcommittees on Information Technology and Government Operations, GAO reviewed and assessed agencies' progress on 24 Data Center Optimization Initiatives against the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) fiscal year 2018 optimization targets. GAO issued the draft report on June 14 recommending: (1) Congress consider extending the time frame for the data center consolidation and optimization provisions of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act to provide agencies additional time to meet OMB's optimization targets and achieve cost saving; (2) 18 agencies, including the Department, complete their plans to implement data center monitoring tools; and (3) OMB require agencies to complete their plans and report them to OMB. The Department's comments are due July 14.

Human Trafficking: Information on Cases in Indian Country or that Involved Native Americans (GAO-17-624). Per request from the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, GAO researched human trafficking taking place in Indian country and trafficking of Native American persons regardless of where they are located in the United States. The report addresses the extent of human trafficking the tribal and major city law enforcement agencies (LEA) have encountered, the factors affecting the ability of LEAs to identify and investigate this specific human trafficking and the availability of services to Native American victims of human trafficking. GAO issued the draft report June 15 with no recommendations. The Department's comments are due July 6.

Recent Final GAO Reports

Improper Payments: Additional Guidance Could Provide More Consistent Compliance Determinations and Reporting by Inspectors General (GAO-17-484). Pursuant to its authority under 31 U.S.C. 717 to evaluate programs and activities of the U.S. Government, GAO analyzed improper payments. Pursuant to the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 (IPERA), the Inspectors General (IG) of the 24 Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 agencies must assess and report compliance with six IPERA criteria related to improper payments. GAO issued the final report June 13 with recommendations: (1) OMB coordinate with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to develop and issue guidance specifying what procedures should be conducted as part of the IG's IPERA compliance determinations; and (2) the Department of Agriculture submit a proposal to Congress as required, in response to three or more years of noncompliance with IPERA criteria. GAO issued no recommendations to the Department and no further action is required.

Oil, Gas, and Coal Royalties: Raising Federal Rates Could Decrease Production on Federal Lands but Increase Federal Revenue (GAO-17-540). Per response to a Congressional mandate in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, GAO reviewed studies,

interviewed stakeholders about Federal royalty rates, and found that while increasing royalty rates may slightly decrease production on Federal lands, higher royalty rates could increase revenue by millions of dollars annually. GAO issued the final report on June 20 with no recommendations and action required.

OIG Exit Conference/Pending Reports

Verification Review of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Safety of Dams: Emergency Preparedness (2017-WR-030). The OIG has tentatively completed its verification review of 13 recommendations presented in the evaluation report, "BIA and FWS Safety of Dams: Emergency Preparedness" (WR-EV-MOA-0002-2013). The OIG's preliminary conclusion is that all 13 recommendations are resolved and implemented. OIG does not plan to hold an exit conference.

Rules and Regulations for Publication in 2017

(Update) ***AA20: Repeal of Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform final rule.*** The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) published the proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register on April 4, 2017, and the comment period closed May 4, 2017. ONRR is finalizing the regulatory and preamble language for review by management. We received and posted 95 public comments for the proposed rulemaking. Also, we received approximately 2,269 "standard form" public comments. We are reviewing and analyzing the public comments. We plan to publish the Repeal rule by July 21 or September 14, 2017, depending on whether or not OMB chooses to review the rule.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

The afternoon of July 24, Acting AS/WS Scott Cameron and AS/WS Advisor Ryan Nichols will host the quarterly DOI Urban Team meeting. Representatives from NPS, FWS, USGS, and Reclamation have been meeting quarterly for the last three years to share information about respective bureau work in cities to encourage collaboration and, most importantly, leveraging funding and expertise in urban areas, where it is expensive to operate. The Team will be focusing efforts and resources on four cities over the next 2-3 years: Albuquerque, San Antonio, NW Indiana area, and New York City.

The morning of July 24, the District Department of Transportation's Green Infrastructure Director will host W&S, FWS, USGS, The Conservation Fund, American Forests, Bradley Site Design, and EPA at a green infrastructure project site visit featuring restoration and stormwater management components. This tour is part of the Anacostia Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a coalition of 14 federal agencies working collectively with local partners in 19 cities to restore urban waters and the surrounding lands.

In August, USGS and W&S will select projects for four Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations. In the 2017 budget omnibus, Congress dedicated $717K of USGS funds for Urban Waters-focused projects. USGS has been working with local city partners to identify high priority, water-related projects to implement.

DOI-2019-04 00132

WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

June 29, 2017

Office of the Solicitor

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Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

Nothing additional to report.On July 2-12, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will hold its annual session in Krakow, Poland. The U.S. will send an observer delegation to the meeting: Casey Hammond representing the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks along with a NPS employee and two State Department representatives. The meeting affords an opportunity for DOI to learn about policies that could affect the U.S. World Heritage program and for informal conversations related to potential future U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List, such as the re-submission of a nomination for buildings by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Acting Assistant Secretary Johnson is working closely with the U.S. Navy to resolve an issue at Camp Pendleton related to the NPS's historic preservation responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. In 2012, the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) submitted the nomination of Trestles Historic District to the Navy. Trestles is part of San Onofre State Beach, which the Navy at Camp Pendleton leases to the State. The nomination is based on the significance of the beach to the California surfing culture. The Navy has historically and currently conducts training exercises in this area. After 5 years of negotiations, the NPS is reviewing the latest appeal and is expected to render a decision by July 28, 2017.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

For the week from July 7-11, FWS Acting Director Greg Sheehan will be out of the office to attend the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

On or around Friday, June 30, in conjunction with NOAA and EPA, FWS plans to publish the *Coastal Wetlands Loss Analysis: Summary Findings of Pilot Studies Conducted by the Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup*. FWS assisted in developing the report, which summarizes wetland loss assessments conducted in four coastal U.S. watersheds. The report was developed to support subsequent policy and management actions designed to decrease net wetland loss in coastal areas. It is not controversial. Stakeholders include NOAA and EPA, local, state and federal government organizations, and NGOs. The report will be made available online and disseminated to limited stakeholder groups primarily composed of representatives from government agencies with the purview to support coastal wetland conservation and restoration. No outreach is planned by FWS.

After the upcoming release of the Mexican wolf draft recovery plan, on or around Friday, June 30, and during the public comment period that follows, FWS will continue seeking review and comment on the peer-reviewed draft revision from local, state and federal agencies, tribes and the public in both the United States and Mexico. Due to the high level of visibility and controversy on Mexican wolf recovery in general, extensive outreach is planned including personal phone calls and public meetings. In addition, FWS will ensure information is readily available on the Mexican wolf recovery website and through social media (Facebook and Twitter). New postings will be done when key dates are occurring. To gain additional comments and feedback, FWS is hosting public meetings in Arizona and New Mexico on the updated Mexican wolf recovery plan between July 18 and July 22.

On or around July 5, FWS and partners will begin removal of Hunters Pond Dam in Scituate, Massachusetts. The project, partially funded by DOI's Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is a high priority for the restoration of river herring and will open up five miles of riverine channel and 200 acres of alewife pond spawning habitat. Partners include Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, NOAA, North and South Rivers Watershed Association, Town of Scituate and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. Local media and stakeholder outreach is planned.

On or around July 7, FWS, state, and local officials will celebrate the reopening of the White River National Fish Hatchery. The hatchery was severely damaged after Hurricane Irene in 2010 and it took congressional appropriations to repair the damage and reopen the facility. The facility will focus efforts on restoring land-locked Atlantic salmon and lake trout to Lake Champlain and its tributaries in Vermont, New York, and Quebec as well as lake trout in Lakes Erie and Ontario. The Vermont congressional delegation has been invited. Local media advisory and news release are planned with a possible pitch to AP, which has covered the story.

On or around July 7, through the Secretary, FWS plans to announce nearly $15 million in grants to 40 states for projects to support recreational boating through the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. More than $9 million of this will go to six states (California, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington) for competitive grants, and the remaining $5 million will go to 39 states, commonwealths, territories, and the District of Columbia for a smaller, non-competitive grant program. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels, and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft. Grants, which are matched by funding from project partners, support construction or renovation of tie-ups, utilities, fuel stations, pump-out and dump stations, restrooms, and additional sanitary amenities such as laundry and showers for recreational boaters. Outreach to be determined by the Department and includes the potential for a Secretarial event possibly in conjunction with the CVA grants announcement (see below). Outreach (news release and social media) can be done with local and national media outlets and special interest media such as boaters, anglers, marina owners and conservation organizations. This is not controversial.

On or around July 7, through the Secretary, FWS plans to announce nearly $15.4 million in

grants to 20 states for projects to support clean water and recreational boating through the Service's Clean Vessel Act Grant (CVA) program. The CVA program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia, and insular areas for the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft. Outreach to be determined by the Department and includes the potential for a Secretarial event possibly in conjunction with the BIG grants announcement (see above). Outreach (news release and social media) can be done with local and national media outlets and special interest media such as boaters, anglers, marina owners, and conservation organizations. This is not controversial.

National Park Service

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

On June 22, three plainclothes USPP officers approached four suspects on the National Mall and took enforcement action regarding illegal vending. All four were immediately handcuffed. During the investigation it was determined that the adult suspect, who had previously been contacted for illegal vending, was not involved in this case released. Although the ages of the other 3 young men were unknown, this investigation revealed they were juveniles (ages 16, 17, and 17). The officers, using their discretion, decided to release them, without charge, to their parents/guardians. There continues to be media and Congressional interest in this matter.

From now through September, preparations are underway for a major rehabilitation project at Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial. There will be periodic, partial closures of the house and site to accommodate the work. The site is expected to close completely in September for major construction, which is expected to last 18 months.

On July 5, Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota will start a new process of transferring horses from its demonstration herd to the public through GSA. The reduction of horses from the demonstration herd is necessary to reduce the number of horses in the park and maintain a healthy herd. This initial operation will collect up to five yearlings and foals and the park will continue to work with the longtime partners to help connect the horses with potential buyers. There has been limited local media interest at this time. Local Congressional staff has been notified.

On July 6, as part of the Anacostia Park Wetlands Management Plan, the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), under an agreement with the NPS, will round up and euthanize geese to regulate the resident population. The plan aims to restore the wetlands that surround the Anacostia River and eventually aid in restoring the river's health. This is the second

year the park has done a goose roundup in partnership with DOEE and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The meat will be donated to the DC Central Kitchen.

On July 8, the NPS anticipates the announcement of the $3,623,162 (possibly including an additional $1,189,000) in available Battlefield Land Acquisition grant funding. Grants will be used to protect 999 acres of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland. The NPS works with private landowners, battlefield friends groups, interested community groups, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, local, state, and tribal governments and Federal agencies for preservation projects and local acquisition of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield land. The NPS is working with the Secretary's office on an event and the communications plan.

CLOSE HOLD – LITIGATION-SETTLEMENT SENSITIVE) There are 24 families in Point Reyes National Seashore that operate historic beef and dairy ranches under agricultural lease/special use permits on approximately 28,000 acres of land within the Seashore. The Resource Renewal Institute, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Western Watersheds filed suit in 2016 (Resource Renewal Institute v NPS) challenging the General Management Plan for the Park claiming it was outdated and needed to evaluate whether ranching was a proper use of park resources. The Department of Justice expects to file the DOI recommended settlement agreement with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to end the litigation on or before July 8, 2017. The settlement stipulates a 4-year timeline for the NPS to complete a General Management Plan Amendment/EIS, and allows the NPS to issue interim authorizations to all current park ranch operations while NEPA is being conducted. Nearly all of the 24 ranching families operating in the park, as well as the County of Marin, have signed this settlement as Defendant-Intervenors. This issue was raised during a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on June 28, 2017 by one of the witnesses, Ms. Caroline Lobdell, the Executive Director of the Western Resources Legal Center. Ms. Lobdell, who represents some of the Ranchers impacted by this litigation, raised concern that the Ranchers were unable to receive full intervention status in the case and that NPS may have capitulated to the plaintiffs because NPS issued one year leases rather than longer permits. NPS needed to conduct a NEPA analysis in order to issue longer permits, which will occur as part of the settlement agreement described above. Once the settlement is public, the NEPA process will move forward. There will be heavy local and regional media interest regarding this settlement announcement.

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On June 28, there will be a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs roundtable discussion on broadband access in Indian Country. Minority staff seeks a DOI-Indian Affairs representative to discuss the need and challenges of accessing broadband in Indian Country and BIE schools.

On July 7, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will hold a field hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico on Native American Art and Crafts authentic crafts and fraudulent crafts.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

June 30 will be the last day for Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management – Indian Affairs James Burckman.

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

In early July, upon recommendation from the BOEM, ASLM is considering a proposal to implement of a 12.5% royalty rate for oil and gas production in shallow water depths only for leases offered in GOM Lease Sale 249, which is scheduled to take place on August 16, 2017. Bids for leasing in shallow waters have been in steady decline, primarily due the high incidents of natural gas in shallow water depths, which compete unfavorably with more onshore gas resource plays. If approved, the Bureau will make the announcement using a Note to Stakeholders and affected governors will be notified via correspondence.

During the month of July, the U.S. Army will undertake a munitions cleanup in public access areas at BLM-CA's Fort Ord National Monument**.** Fort Ord is located about ten miles northeast of Monterey and is in the Central California District Office. The cleanup encompasses about 800 acres of BLM-managed lands and Army-managed lands in the northern portion of the monument. The first phase of cleanup is cutting vegetation, which will require road and trail closures. Phase two will include prescribed burning.

On July 3, BLM-AK will review and provide comments on the Donlin Gold preliminary final EIS for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lead agency for the project. Donlin Gold LLC applied for permits for an open pit, hard rock gold mine located approximately 277 miles west of Anchorage, in southwest AK. The project also requires transportation infrastructure and a pipeline.

During the week of July 3, BOEM plans to initiate the process of developing a new Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Program (Five Year Program) with publication of a Request for Information and Comments. The decision to undertake a new Five Year OCS Program is currently scheduled to be announced on June 29 at an Energy Summit hosted by the Department of Energy. As required by section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, notification letters will be sent to all 50 Governors and several Federal agencies. This action will be taken pursuant the April 28, 2017, Executive Order entitled, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" and Secretary's Order 3350, issued on May 1, 2017.

On July 5, BLM-NM Acting Rio Puerco Field Manager Angel Martinez will meet with the Governor of the Zia Pueblo Tribe at the Zia Pueblo. Among the topics they will discuss are the possibility of a local shooting range and access to the local off-highway vehicle area.

On July 7, the Federal Register will publish the NOA of the Draft EIS for the Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) Natural Gas Development Project. The proposed project, which was submitted by Jonah Energy LLC, could unlock 5.25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, providing a reliable, long-term energy source for the nation and creating more than 700 full-time jobs and

stable employment opportunities for southwestern Wyoming. The project could also create $2.2 billion in royalties, half of which would go to the State of Wyoming.

Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Field Hearing

- Who: Indian Arts and Crafts Board and FWS Office of Law Enforcement
- What: Hearing before Senator Tom Udall (NM), Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and Senator Martin Heinrich (NM).
- When: Friday, July 7, 10:00 am local time
- Where: Santa Fe, NM (Santa Fe Indian School)
- Press: Local media will attend
- Topics: "Cultural Sovereignty Series: Modernizing the Indian Arts and Crafts Act to Honor Native Identity and Expression (strengthening the Indian Arts and Crafts Act)"

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

Suspension and Debarment Actions. On June 9, 2017, DOI debarred Danelle Arlene Newman based on her conviction for mail fraud in connection with the Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations (Program), managed by the DOI Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST). Between January 2013 and July 2014, Newman illegally received $22,295.00 through the Program by fraudulently executing official forms, misrepresenting herself as another person in calls to the OST Trust Beneficiary Call Center, and on three separate occasions, fraudulently executing a Deed to Restricted Indian Lands belonging to another individual.

Year 2017 Small Business Accomplishments to Date. As of June 22, 2017, the Department has awarded 55.02% of its contract award dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal, which was negotiated with the Small Business Administration (SBA), is 53.5%. The Department awarded 21.82% of its contract award dollars to small disadvantaged businesses and 14.12% of its contract award dollars to women-owned small businesses, exceeding the statutory goal of 5% for each. The Department awarded 3.53% of its contract award dollars to historically underutilized business zone small businesses and 3.72% of its contract award dollars to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The statutory goal is 3% for each of these categories.

Internal Control and Audit Follow-up. The Department has an annual goal of closing 85 percent of corrective actions scheduled for closure in the current FY to address issues raised in OIG and GAO engagements. As of June 23, 2017, the Department has closed 37 percent of open audit recommendations scheduled for closure in FY 2017.

Royalty Policy Committee. ONRR issued a Federal Register Notice to extend the nomination period for the Royalty Policy Committee (Committee) by an additional 30 days. On April 3, 2017, the Department of the Interior published a notice establishing the Committee and requesting nominations. The last submission date for Committee nominations is now July 3, 2017.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

In the coming weeks, the Department will release a new USGS report on critical minerals for the United States. This publication presents resource and geologic information for 23 mineral commodities currently viewed as important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. The report provides an in-depth look at each commodity's use, distribution of deposit types, and current status of production, resources, and reserves. The individual commodity chapters serve as an update to the 1973 commodity chapters of USGS Professional Paper 820, United States Mineral Resources. A DOI news release is planned.

30-60 DAY LOOK-AHEAD

Office of the Solicitor

SIGNIFICANT LITIGATION DEADLINES FOR NEXT THREE WEEKS SEPARATELY REPORTED

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

On August 28, federal agencies will begin selling the new America the Beautiful Senior Pass which allows lifetime access to certain federal lands. The price will increase from $10 to $80. The NPS and DOI Communications Offices as well as the NPS and DOI legislative offices are working on the announcement plan. The new date has not yet been announced publicly.

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

FWS will seek public input to identify potential issues and concerns, impacts, and alternatives to be considered in development of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County, California. This action is not expected to be controversial. Interested stakeholders are oil and gas operators and environmental organizations in Santa Barbara County, California. Outreach will be targeted to Santa Barbara County area media, congressional staff and stakeholders. FWS will offer a briefing with staff from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Environmental Office in advance of Federal Register notification of public comment period. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is July 17.

Grants

By July 15, FWS plans to announce approximately $1 million in white-nose syndrome grants to states. The grants will help states respond to the deadly white-nose syndrome disease of bats through actions such as looking for the fungus that causes the disease, carrying out decontamination procedures at state caves and mines, and monitoring bat populations. White-nose syndrome is a disease caused by a fungus that has killed millions of valuable insect-eating bats and has been found in 31 states. Recent studies show that the agricultural value of insect control by bats is $1.4 billion annually in Texas alone. FWS leads the national response to the disease. This action is not controversial. A news release and outreach to interested stakeholders is planned and will be coordinated with Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and state wildlife directors.

Pending Departmental clearance, FWS will announce the approval of around $4 million in grants for 31 projects throughout the Americas as part of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant program. Exact date and award amount are not yet determined. News release and outreach to bird-centric media are planned. This is not controversial.

Pending Departmental advisement, FWS will approve a slate of projects for funding under the

Competitive State Wildlife Grants program. The projects focus on "species of greatest conservation need" identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. Funds for this program are appropriated annually by Congress. FWS Regional Offices will submit individual grants for DOI approval prior to award. This is not controversial. No outreach is planned.

Asian Carp

On July 10, Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) is hosting a public event in suburban Cleveland to discuss Great Lakes issues. Representative Kaptur is inviting several experts to sit on the panel and answer audience questions about the Great Lakes ecological issues. FWS Midwest Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley will attend and answer questions about Asian carp. Other groups represented will include NOAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio Sea Grant/Stone Laboratory.

This summer, the 2016 Water Resources Reform and Development Act Report to Congress on Asian carp will be finalized. Notable changes from the 2015 report include the slight range expansion of silver carp, the movement of juvenile Asian carps in the sub-basins and additional information on the status of black carp. As in previous years, the 2016 report will be made available to the public on AsianCarp.us. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, includes direction from Congress to FWS to lead a multiagency effort to slow the spread of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. Specifically, WRRDA calls for the FWS to develop and deliver a report to Congress summarizing all activities and expenditures (both federal and non-federal) related to Asian carp prevention efforts in the two watersheds, as well as describing any observed changes in the range of Asian carp in Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins. The report also outlines research that could improve the ability to control the spread of Asian carp and quantitative measures proposed for use in documenting progress in controlling the spread of Asian carp. This is potentially controversial due to the slight range expansion of silver carp. No public outreach is planned. FWS will conduct outreach to Congress.

Endangered Species Act Recovery Actions

FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. The cost of certain actions pertaining to habitat acquisition, restoration, and management is listed as "To be decided," reflecting the considerable uncertainty around what the actual cost of those actions will be once completed. Stakeholders include federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, local agricultural communities and local municipalities as it concerns water usage. This action is not expected to be controversial, although the estimated costs of voluntary actions and actions needed for recovery could generate local stakeholder and media attention. Planned outreach includes early notifications to stakeholders, news release to local media and postings to website and social media. This is pending clearance by the Department.

On July 19-20, FWS will host public scoping meetings in Central Oregon to gather information to prepare a draft environmental impact statement related to the Deschutes Basin Habitat

Conservation Plan. The Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the City of Prineville are the permit applicants for the incidental take of three listed species: Oregon spotted frog, bull trout, and steelhead. Media is expected. Stakeholders include local farmers, irrigators, and recreationists. WaterWatch of Oregon, Center for Biological Diversity, Coalition for the Deschutes, Trout Unlimited and the Deschutes River Conservancy will likely get involved in the NEPA process. This will be regionally controversial. Outreach is planned to alert the public to the meetings. There will be a news release, social media posts, and outreach to local and state representatives. Phone calls will be made and emails sent to the partners already listed in the report item. The meetings are just the first step in the scoping process, so there will be follow-up outreach with interested partners after the meetings.

On or around August 4, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring plan and reopen the public comment period on the proposed rule to delist the black-capped vireo. The post-delisting monitoring plan will be finalized in concert with the decision on the final delisting rule in January 2018. This action may become controversial. Stakeholders include the petitioners, Pacific Legal Foundation, the Office of Travis Co. Judge, Big Bend National Park, and others. There have been a number of public comments opposing the delisting of the black-capped vireo, and a number of partner agencies concerned about having the necessary funds to implement the ongoing management needs (cowbird removal) and monitoring identified for their lands, which may also result in concerns about the viability of both the delisting and the post-delisting monitoring plan. Planned outreach will include notifications to local stakeholders, a press release to local media and social media posts.

On or around August 4, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring plan, and reopen the public comment period on the proposed rule to delist the lesser long-nosed bat. The post-delisting monitoring plan will be finalized in concert with the decision on the final delisting rule in January 2018. This action is not controversial. Stakeholders are the Pacific Legal Foundation and the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. Planned outreach will include notifications to local stakeholders, a press release to local media, and social media posts.

Endangered Species Act Listing/Delisting Actions

Pending clearance, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final listing determination for the i'iwi, a Hawaiian bird. This action is not controversial. The only interested stakeholder groups are the petitioners, Center for Biological Diversity comment and Life Net. FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the finding for the i'iwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media.

On or around July 14, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice announcing a six-month extension of the final determination of whether to list the San Fernando Valley spineflower, a plant species from southern California, as a result of substantial scientific disagreement concerning the species. This notice will also reopen the comment period on the proposed rule to list the species for an additional 30 days. The spineflower listing is locally

controversial, but filing a six-month extension is not expected to be controversial. In August, the FWS will announce the availability of a draft Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for public comment that outlines conservation measures to benefit the San Fernando Valley spineflower. The CCA was prepared in collaboration with Newhall Land and Farming Company. The interested stakeholder is Newhall Ranch. Outreach will include stakeholder notifications and posting of notice to field office newsroom.

On or around July 17, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to list the Louisiana pine snake, located in Louisiana and Texas, as a threatened species with a 4(d) rule. This action is controversial. Stakeholders include the U.S. Army, the U.S. Forest Service, State and private landowners and the timber industry. Planned outreach will include notifications to stakeholders and relevant members of Congress, press release to local media and social media posts.

On or around July 19, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice reopening for public comment the proposed listing of western glacier stonefly and meltwater lednian stonefly, located in Montana and Wyoming, as threatened species. The reopening will allow the public to comment on new range information regarding western glacier stonefly. This action is not expected to be controversial. Interested stakeholders include WildEarth Guardians and the States of Montana and Wyoming. A regional news release is planned.

On or around July 28, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final rule to remove the eastern cougar (historically known to exist in southeastern Ontario, southern Quebec and New Brunswick in Canada and a region bounded from Maine to Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and South Carolina in the eastern United States) from the list of endangered and threatened species due to extinction. Although we do not anticipate major public controversy with regard to the final rule, opposition to our conclusion of extinction may be expressed by advocates and advocacy organizations for puma and large predator conservation who maintain that eastern cougars still exist. However, the best available information indicates that sightings of cougars in the east are cases of mistaken identity (with bobcats) or escaped captive animals or, rarely, cougars from western populations dispersing eastwards. Interested parties include eastern U.S. states, the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Cougar Network. National news bulletin and Congressional emails are planned.

On or around August 1, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii Island and correct the maps for existing designations for an additional four species there. We intend to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private landowners under Section 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the State of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the County of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a news release, social media, emails, and phone calls to Congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above.

On or around August 2, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* 90-day petition findings for five species: the oblong rocksnail, sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub, tricolored bat, and Venus flytrap. As part of this batched finding we are publishing a correction to the 90-day finding for leopards which clarifies the range and the entity we are evaluating in our status review. The

findings in this batch are not expected to be controversial, however, the substantial 90-day finding for the tricolored bat might generate attention, given that the primary threat to it is white-nosed syndrome (which is threatening other bat species across North America). Stakeholders for the tricolored bat include the wind, oil and gas industries, federal forest land managers (Department of Defense, Forest Service, National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management), private forest landowners, States, Canada and Mexico, federal academic researchers (U.S. Geological Survey and universities), the caving community, and local municipalities and homeowners who have bats on their property. Stakeholders for the other species include the Center for Biological Diversity, Cahaba River Keeper, WildEarth Guardians, Defenders of Wildlife, the Humane Society, International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Fund for Animals and several individuals. Outreach will include notifications to stakeholders and petitioners and a low-key national news bulletin to media.

On or around August 4, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a 12-month finding and proposed delisting determination on the Deseret milkvetch, found in Utah. The Service concluded that the threats (residential development, highway widening, livestock grazing, and small population size) either have not occurred to the extent anticipated, are being adequately managed, or the species is more tolerant of the stressor than originally known. Interested stakeholders include the petitioner, Western Area Power Administration, entities that own lands occupied by the species, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Utah Division of Transportation. Planned outreach will include a regional news release, emailing the news release to relevant congressional offices, and phone calls to the respective state wildlife directors. This is not expected to garner national attention.

National Wildlife Refuge Actions

By the end of July, FWS will publish a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach.

Migratory Bird Management Actions

Only July 17, FWS plans to announce new regulations that will allow the sale, including consignment sale, of authentic Alaska Native handicrafts or clothing that incorporate nonedible migratory bird parts. Handicrafts must be made from migratory birds harvested for food during the subsistence season. There are 27 bird species from which parts may be used.
On or around July 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* its annual proposal for administering tribal hunting, fishing and gathering rights under multiple treaties for several federally recognized tribes in the Great Lakes region. The proposal has been compiled in consultation with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, which represents 11 tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. FWS has informed the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan DNRs of the agency's support for these proposed regulations. A final decision will not be made until after public comments are reviewed and would not take effect until the fall

2017 hunting season. The proposal is expected to be controversial due to the inclusion of several new techniques for tribal members to take waterfowl, including electronic calls, hand held nets and snares, and use of these nets at night.

Other

On July 11, FWS will host a State-Tribe American Ginseng Program Coordination Meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia. American ginseng is a native plant extensively harvested for its roots for export to Asia where they are highly valued for their medicinal properties. Due to the high volume of international trade of wild ginseng, the species is included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Appendix II allows trade that is biologically sustainable and legal. The meeting will bring together the state and tribe ginseng program coordinators to discuss pressing current issues facing wild ginseng, management efforts, and necessary steps to improve the long-term sustainability of ginseng. The meeting is part of FWS's ongoing efforts to improve coordination and consultation with states and tribes to ensure that FWS continues to meet its responsibility that exports of American ginseng are legal and sustainable. Immediately after the 1-day coordination meeting, is a 2-day (July 12-13) symposium on the "The Future of American Ginseng and Forest Botanicals." The symposium, coordinated by the United Plant Savers and in collaboration with FWS, and supported by several herbal product companies, will present new biological and management information on the conservation and trade of American ginseng and other economically important forest plants that provide revenue to local economies, particularly the Appalachian Region.

National Park Service

On or about July 9, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is scheduled to host the Honorable Rick Colless, Member of the Legislative Council in New South Wales, Australia, who serves as the Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources. He is visiting as part of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association study tour to the U.S. and Canada, and he has expressed specific interest in northern California and Yellowstone. They are interested in visits to national forests and parks and meetings with industry stakeholders to discuss forest and park management, natural resource management, conservation, and commercial logging policies and practices.

In early July, the National Mall and Memorial Parks will drain the pond in Constitution Gardens for cleaning and maintenance. It is expected to be empty for approximately a week. Work will not commence until after the July 4th holiday. Neither of these projects are related to the recent draining of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool because of elevated parasite levels.

On July 11, the NPS will meet with representatives of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to begin negotiations regarding the Tribe's proposal for compacting certain NPS functions at the park. A pre-negotiation meeting regarding the request was held in late May. The Tribe is seeking to manage maintenance and interpretation & education functions in the park in FY-18.

In July, the NPS anticipates the announcement of the $1.75 million in available Maritime Heritage project grant funding. These grants will be used for maritime heritage education and

preservation projects related to the maritime heritage of the United States. The National Maritime Heritage Act established the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program within the Department of the Interior. The grants program is administered in partnership with the Maritime Administration. It provides funding for education and preservation projects designed to preserve historic maritime resources and is funded through a percentage of the proceeds from the sale or scrapping of obsolete vessels of the National Defense Reserve Fleet. All grants awarded must be matched on a 1-to-1 basis with non-Federal assets.

In July, the NPS will announce the award of $18 million in centennial challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-federal funds. The NPS is coordinating with DOI Communications on the public announcement and notification to the recipients.

In July, the NPS anticipates the announcement of $15 million in Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant funding for approximately 25 projects. A total of 51 projects were submitted by states to acquire and develop outdoor recreation spaces. This competitive program supplements the annual Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment to states by supporting projects for disadvantaged populations in urban areas. The NPS is coordinating with DOI Communications on the public announcement and notification to the recipients

In July, the NPS will announce the apportionment of $1,635,742 in Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act grants to fund repatriation and reburial projects. The grants will assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and funerary objects back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA requires museums and Federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections, and to consult with Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding repatriation. Section 10 of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implementing provisions of the Act. The NPS will coordinate with DOI Communications on the public announcement and notification to the recipients

In July, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park fire assessment review will be released. In February, a team of fire experts (federal and state) convened at Great Smoky Mountains National Park to conduct an independent review of the 2016 Chimney Tops 2 fire that started in the park on November 23. The purpose of the review is to assess the facts leading up to and during the Chimney Tops 2 fire within the boundaries of the park, as well as make recommendations on any planning, operational, or managerial issues which can be addressed locally, regionally, and/or nationally to reduce the chances of a similar incident in the future. The NPS has received tort claims related to this incident and expects additional lawsuits soon.

In July, the NPS will announce $21 million in grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to States and Territories. Grants will be awarded to 59 State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act 115-31. SHPO grants receive minor press coverage when the awards are announced. Several SHPOs have contacted the NPS about their inability to meet payroll because of the late appropriation.

In July, the NPS will announce $4.5 million in grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Indian Tribes. Grants will be awarded to 169 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act PL115-31. THPO grants receive minor press coverage when the awards are announced. Several THPOs have contacted us about inability to meet payroll because of the late appropriation.

In July, the NPS anticipates the announcement of $500,000 in Tribal Heritage grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Indian Tribes. Grants will be awarded to 14 Tribes, based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act PL 115-31 and reapportioned funding from PL 114-113. Tribal Heritage grants receive press coverage when the awards are announced.

On or about July 17, the FY 16 Annual Report on the Economic Impact of the Federal Historic Tax Credit is expected to be issued. The report finds that the $6.5 billion of private investment in historic rehabilitation for FY16 produced an estimated 109,000 jobs and benefited the national economy with over $12.3 billion in output, $6.2 billion in GDP, and $1.7 billion in taxes generated. The report was undertaken by the NPS through a cooperative agreement with the Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research and documents the wide breadth of economic impacts of the credit, as well as the cumulative impacts of the program since the program's inception in 1976 -- $13l.8 billion in leveraged private investment in the historic rehabilitation, over 42,000 certified projects, and over 2.44 million jobs. Commonly known as the Historic Tax Credit, the program provides a 20-percent federal tax credit to property owners who undertake a substantial rehabilitation of a historic building in a business or income-producing use, while maintaining its historic character. The program is administered by the NPS and the Internal Revenue Service, in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Offices. The NPS certifies that a historic building is eligible for the program and that its rehabilitation meets preservation standards

On July 18, t the NPS will hold public meetings in Flagstaff, Arizona, seeking public input into the replacement of the Grand Canyon National Park's 12.5 mile long Trans-canyon Pipeline that conveys water from Roaring Springs located below the North Rim to the Indian Gardens Pump Station at the South Rim. This essential component of Grand Canyon's infrastructure is 44 years old, putting it well past its normal life expectancy. The pipeline is the sole source of water supporting park operations on the South Rim, providing all drinking and utility water for more than 4.7 million annual visitors and 2,500 year-round residents.

In mid-July, Mojave National Preserve will begin a 60-day public comment period on the Water Resources Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (WRP/DEIS). The plan will manage both developed (diverted springs and wildlife guzzlers) and undeveloped water resources in the park. The process is being closely watched by local hunting groups interested in the management of wildlife guzzlers (large basins which catch rainwater and provide a watering source for wildlife and cattle), which are viewed as necessary to maintaining a healthy bighorn sheep population for hunting.

In late July, George Washington Parkway will begin the work to clean, wax, and re-gild the U.S.

Marine Corps War Memorial, commonly referred to as the Iwo Jima Memorial. Visitor access will be affected. The project also includes engraving *Iraq* and *Afghanistan* on the memorial to honor those who served. The park will notify stakeholders of the project's potential impacts. The project was made possible by a donation from philanthropist David Rubenstein.

On August 18, Olympic National Park will host a special event at Hurricane Ridge celebrating the renaming of the Olympic Wilderness to the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness by a 2016 act of Congress. Evans, a former Washington state governor and U.S. Senator, was the lead sponsor of the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988. Evans will speak at the event and various Congress members and/or staff are expected to among the estimated 150 participants. The NPS is working on a communications plan and will coordinate with DOI Communications Office.

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education

July 10 is the new deadline for public comments for the Bears Ears National Monument, and the deadline for comments on all other monument designations under review.

On July 12, a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing on S.943, Johnson-O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act is scheduled. An invitation for a Departmental witness is expected.

July 15 is the deadline for comments on E.O 13871, how Interior and the Federal government can be reorganized.

On July 19, a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing oversight hearing on Indian Gaming is scheduled.

On July 19-20, the Self-Governance Advisory Committee quarterly meeting will place at the Embassy Suites DC Convention Center, 900 10th St NW, Washington, DC 20001. The Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs is invited to attend on Thursday, July 20.

On July 24, the Department's Office of Policy Analysis will hold an Indian Economic Development Data workshop preceding the Tribal-Interior Budget Council meeting, at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, 22181 Resort Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ.

On July 25-27, The Tribal-Interior Budget Council (TIBC) will meet at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, 22181 Resort Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ.

On July 26, a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs oversight hearing on "Human Trafficking" is scheduled.

August 12 is the deadline for proposals from Tribes for the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development's (IEED's) FY 2017 Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) economic development feasibility study grant program. This grant program has,

among other successes, enabled the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to build an industrial park and restore a 66-mile rail line that opens an east-west connection to four major north-south rail corridors for regional commerce.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

Regulations Ready for OS Review

- None at this time.

Regulations Pending Departmental Review, Then Ready for AS-IA Signature

- **Proposed rules pending publication:**
    - **Indian Electric Power Utilities (25 CFR 175):** This proposed rule would not make any substantive changes to the regulations, but would revise the regulations to be in plain language. The regulations affect only a limited number of Tribes because there are only three BIA electric power utilities: Colorado River (serving the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation), Mission Valley Power (serving the Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Indian Reservation), and San Carlos Irrigation Project (serving Gila River Indian Community).
        - *Status:* The proposed rule will be presented to the AS-IA transition contact in preparation for AS-IA signature.

Upcoming FACA Committee Notices

- **BIE Negotiated Rulemaking on Accountability (25 CFR 30):** The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires BIE to use a negotiated rulemaking process to develop regulations for implementation no later than the 2017-2018 academic year and to define the standards, assessments, and accountability system consistent with Section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the schools funded by BIE on a national, regional, or tribal basis.
    - *Status:* [No Change] BIE is preparing a new notice of intent to establish the committee and solicitation for membership.

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

During the week of July 10, OSMRE anticipates submitting the Bull Hill # 2 mine plan decision documents to the ASLM for approval. Located in Latimer County, OK, the mine is owned by Farrell-Cooper Mining, employs 36 people, and contains approximately 384,000 tons of recoverable Federal coal.

During the week of July 10, OSMRE anticipates publishing a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day comment period. The Bridger Coal Company's Bridger Mine is an underground mine located in Sweetwater County, WY that employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.

During the week of July 10, OSMRE plans to publish a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the Cordero Rojo Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

On July 10, BOEM plans to publish the Record of Decision for a project to rehabilitate 4 miles of shoreline damaged by Hurricane Matthew in Martin County, FL. The Bureau will enter into a 3-party agreement with Martin County and the US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge up to 1,000,000 cubic yards of OCS sand.

On July 10, four individuals charged with various crimes during the 2014 Gold Butte cattle impoundment are scheduled to be re-tried in U.S. District Court, Las Vegas, following the declaration of a mistrial on April 24, 2017. The BLM communications team has and will continue to coordinate with DOI communications on public statements or related materials.

On July 11, BLM Cultural and Law Enforcement program staff will meet with the GAO to discuss looting and trafficking of Native American artifacts. GAO requested the meeting as part of its current focus on looting and trafficking and to follow-up on its prior review of Federal agency compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

On July 11, BSEE Director Scott Angelle is scheduled to speak at the American Petroleum Institute's Safe Lifting Conference in Houston, TX. The conference will cover lifting operations and standards for platform-based cranes.

On July 13, BOEM plans to hold an Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting in San Luis Obispo, CA to discuss the results of the collaborative data and information collection efforts and the potential areas identified for the Call for Information and Nominations (Call). Development of the Call was necessitated by an application for a commercial lease submitted by Trident Wind offshore Morrow Bay, CA in January 2016 and competitive interest indicated by Statoil in its response to the subsequent Request for Information in August 2016.

On July 14, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at a meeting of the National Ocean Industries Association's Legislative Strategy Group in Washington, DC.

From July 14 to August 25, BLM-AK plans a temporary shutdown of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Alyeska Pipeline Services Company plans safety and integrity protection system downloads requiring short-term shutdowns for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System this summer. The BLM Alaska Branch of Pipeline Monitoring will observe the shutdowns.

In mid-July, OSMRE's Western Region plans to publish a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the John Henry Mine Mining Plan Modification draft EA and unsigned FONSI, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Pacific Coast Coal Company's John Henry Mine is a surface mine located in King County, WA. This coal mine has been inactive since 1999.

In mid to late July, BLM-CA anticipates the completion of the proposed Hester land exchange. The exchange will result in the BLM's acquisition of approximately 550 acres of non-Federal lands within the new Sand to Snow National Monument in Riverside County, in exchange for 40 acres of Federal mineral interests located on private property in San Diego County. The exchange finalizes restitution of a trespass settlement that began in 2013. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA-5) has been a strong advocate for the exchange and the BLM is keeping him informed of its progress.

On July 17, BOEM plans to publish the Final Notice of Sale and Record of Decision for GOM Lease Sale 249. The sale is scheduled for August 16 and will be the first lease sale under the 2017-2022 OCS Oil & Gas Program as well as the first region-wide sale.

During the week of July 17, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will attend individual meetings with members of the AK Congressional delegation to discuss offshore developing in the Arctic OCS region leading in to his trip to AL the following week.

On July 18 – 20, Acting ASLM Kate MacGregor will participate in the 15th annual Governor's Trail Ride hosted by the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Governor Butch Otter. The event, which will take place on historic ranchland in the Upper Snake River Valley, is designed to provide an opportunity to explore natural resource issues and will include discussions about improvements to the Federal grazing permit process and sustainable land use.
On July 18 – 21, BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program Division Chief Dean Bolstad will participate, together with representatives from Federal and international agencies, academics and non-profit organizations, on a panel at the 8th International Wildlife Fertility Control conference in Washington, D.C., to discuss key needs and challenges regarding fertility control for wild horses and wildlife. The conference will be hosted by the Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control, a partnership between The Humane Society of the United States and the Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation.

On July 18 and 25, BLM-Eastern States (ES), in conjunction with the US Forest Service, will hold public meetings in St. Paul, MN, and Virginia, MN, to solicit comments regarding the proposed 20-year withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Federal minerals from national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River Watershed. Public comments received during project scoping will inform development of an EIS to study the proposed mineral withdrawal. The USFS is the lead agency for developing the EIS, and the BLM is a cooperating agency. BLM Northeastern States District Manager Dean Gettinger will attend.
On July 19, BLM plans to hold an auction of Federally-owned crude helium. Under the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the BLM must offer for auction and sale annually a portion of the helium reserves stored underground at the Cliffside Gas Field, near Amarillo, TX. The BLM anticipates auctioning 500 MMcf in a total of 30 lots for delivery in FY 2018. Following the auction, the BLM will offer an allocated sale in which helium is offered to refiners, and a non-allocated sale in which the helium is offered to non-refiners.

On July 19, OSMRE, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and State regulatory authorities will meet in St. Louis to re-initiate Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, as a result of the nullification of the Stream Protection Rule and the 2016 Biological

Opinion. An internal draft of the Biological Assessment (BA) is under review by an interdisciplinary team and is expected to be completed, including all OSMRE and Solicitor reviews, by July 14, to allow the BA to be submitted to USFWS by the first week of August.

On July 22, the BLM-OR/WA Lakeview Resource Area plans to hold an open house to discuss ongoing work with a private, non-profit partner to develop a multi-prong approach to managing the Beatty Butte Herd Management Area. For the first time, an external partner will work with BLM staff to bait trap horses, administer PZP to mares, and gentle horses considered good candidates for adoption.

On July 24, BLM-CA's Arcata Field Office will close its public protest period on a proposed amendment to the Headwaters Forest Reserve Management Plan. The amendment enables the field office to expand forest restoration activities beyond those from the original management plan completed in 2004. The BLM received few comments, which were all positive, during the public comment period on plan amendment development. The BLM and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife jointly manage the 7,400-acre reserve.

On July 28, BOEM will publish a Notice of Availability of the Final Supplemental EIS for the Cape Wind Project. The EIS will supplement the 2009 Final EIS and is being prepared pursuant to a remand order from the D.C. Circuit Court. The ROD will publish on August 11.

On July 28, BOEM plans to publish the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS for the Development and Production Plan for the Hilcorp Liberty Project. The Liberty Project is a 9-acre man-made gravel island proposed to be constructed approximately 5.6 miles offshore in the Beaufort Sea that would be capable of facilitating both drilling and processing operations.

On July 28, the BLM anticipates publishing proposed revisions to the Waste Prevention Rule in the Federal Register.

In late July or early August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Dry Fork Mine (WY) Mining Plan decision documents to OSMRE headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Western Fuels' Dry Fork mine is a surface mining complex located in Campbell County, WY that employs 82 people. Estimated production per year is 6 million tons.

On August 2, BLM-WO staff will meet with an International Visitor Leadership Program group hosted by the University of Montana at Main Interior. The University has requested that Secretary Zinke greet the group. Timothy Fisher, BLM program management analyst from the National Conservation Landscape Program, will meet with the group to discuss the BLM's multiple use mission and priority programs.

On August 3, BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold the spring land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with SNPLMA, funds generated by the sale will be used for projects such as the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

In early to mid-August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Cordero Rojo Mine's Mining Plan decision documents to Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

In early to mid-August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Belle Ayr Mine's Mining Plan decision documents to OSMRE headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Contura Coal West, LLC's Belle Ayr Coal Mine is a surface coal mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 259 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

On August 10, OSMRE's Western Region anticipates releasing for public comment a draft EIS for Western Energy Company's Rosebud Coal Mine Area F, located near Colstrip, MT. The proposed permit area for Area F would add 6,746 acres to the 25,576-acre surface coal mine. The mine currently employs 400 people, and produces 12.3 million tons per year.

On August 23 - 24, 2017, OSMRE's Mid-Continent Region (MCR) will hold an All-States Meeting, in Kansas City, MO. The meeting allows the MCR and its 11 states to exchange information on updates to regulations, policies, trends, technology, grants, personnel and budget issues.

On August 22, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Deepwater Technology Symposium in New Orleans, and then hold various stakeholder meetings in the Gulf region.

On September 19, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association's annual meeting in Lafayette, LA.

On September 20, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Center for Offshore Safety's Annual Forum in Houston, TX.

Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget

OMB Travel. Mike Hagan and Ben Burnett, Interior Branch Examiners, are planning to travel to Montana and North Dakota to review energy programs. The Office of Budget is working on initial details for the trip.

FY 2019 Budget Formulation. Bureau FY 2019 Submissions to the Department are due on Friday, July 7, to the Office of Budget. POB will hold meetings with Bureaus and DOI Leadership July 11-13.

Border Security Meetings, Santa Ana, TX, July 6, 2017. Interagency Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew and new Coordinator Brent Range will attend a planning meeting with National Wildlife Refuge staff and U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities personnel at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Pre-planning activities, including

proposed geotechnical surveys, will be reviewed. Visits to possible construction sites may also be conducted.

Border Coordination Meetings, San Diego, July 11-12, 2017. Interagency Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew and new Coordinator Brent Range will attend coordination meetings with Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Border Patrol field personnel in the San Diego area. They will also attend the San Diego Sector Borderlands Management Task Force Meeting on July 11.

Border Security Forum, Tucson, AZ, September 2017. A border wide leadership meeting on southwest border security and environmental protection is still expected to take place in September 2017 in Tucson, AZ. Planning for possible new border security infrastructure is expected to be the main focus of the meeting. Senior officials at DOI, CBP, U.S. Border Patrol and USDA Forest Service are expected to attend. A specific date has not been determined at this time.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting August 7-12, 2017. The Office of Policy Analysis (PPA), the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, and the State of Florida are coordinating the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) biannual meeting to be held in Ft. Lauderdale, with a public Business Meeting to be held on August 11. The Governor of Florida will host the meeting and will tentatively make remarks at the Business Meeting. The theme of the meeting is "Healthy Reefs for a Healthy Economy" and the focus of discussion will be on the value of coral reefs and local actions taken to address key issues in the Florida reef tract. The meeting will include several progress reports on implementation of the USCRTF Strategy and FY16-20 Framework for Action.

GAO Entrance Conferences

North American Energy Integration and Security (Job Code 102037) – June 29, 2017, with Office of International Affairs Personnel. Per request by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, GAO will review: (1) actions U.S. agencies have taken in regards to North American energy integration and the extent to which these agencies coordinate their efforts; (2) U.S. government agencies' communication and interaction with their counterparts in Mexico and Canada in regards to North American energy integration; (3) U.S. agencies' communication and interaction with industry and civil society regarding North American energy integration; and (4) options stakeholders have identified in infrastructure, border processing, and labor collaboration that the U.S. government could implement to better integrate the North American energy market.

GAO Exit Conference/Pending Reports

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Financial Management System Modernization (Job Code 100679) - June 27, 2017, with Interior Business Center (IBC) Personnel. Per response to a congressional mandate included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, GAO reviewed: (1) risks of DHS' outsourcing its financial management system modernization

efforts to the IBC; (2) IBC's capabilities for expanding its services to additional Federal agencies; and (3) services and capabilities of Federal and commercial shared service providers.

Recent Draft GAO Reports (Per GAO, distribution is highly restricted)

Data Center Optimization: Agencies Need to Address Challenges and Improve Progress to Achieve Cost Savings Goal (GAO-17-448). Per request from the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its Subcommittees on Information Technology and Government Operations, GAO reviewed and assessed agencies' progress on 24 Data Center Optimization Initiatives against the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) fiscal year 2018 optimization targets. GAO issued the draft report on June 14 recommending: (1) Congress consider extending the time frame for the data center consolidation and optimization provisions of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act to provide agencies additional time to meet OMB's optimization targets and achieve cost saving; (2) 18 agencies, including the Department, complete their plans to implement data center monitoring tools; and (3) OMB require agencies to complete their plans and report them to OMB. The Department's comments are due July 14.

Human Trafficking: Information on Cases in Indian Country or that Involved Native Americans (GAO-17-624). Per request from the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, GAO researched human trafficking taking place in Indian country and trafficking of Native American persons regardless of where they are located in the United States. The report addresses the extent of human trafficking the tribal and major city law enforcement agencies (LEA) have encountered, the factors affecting the ability of LEAs to identify and investigate this specific human trafficking and the availability of services to Native American victims of human trafficking. GAO issued the draft report June 15 with no recommendations. The Department's comments are due July 6.

Recent Final GAO Reports

Improper Payments: Additional Guidance Could Provide More Consistent Compliance Determinations and Reporting by Inspectors General (GAO-17-484). Pursuant to its authority under 31 U.S.C. 717 to evaluate programs and activities of the U.S. Government, GAO analyzed improper payments. Pursuant to the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 (IPERA), the Inspectors General (IG) of the 24 Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 agencies must assess and report compliance with six IPERA criteria related to improper payments. GAO issued the final report June 13 with recommendations: (1) OMB coordinate with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to develop and issue guidance specifying what procedures should be conducted as part of the IG's IPERA compliance determinations; and (2) the Department of Agriculture submit a proposal to Congress as required, in response to three or more years of noncompliance with IPERA criteria. GAO issued no recommendations to the Department and no further action is required.

Oil, Gas, and Coal Royalties: Raising Federal Rates Could Decrease Production on Federal Lands but Increase Federal Revenue (GAO-17-540). Per response to a Congressional mandate in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, GAO reviewed studies,

interviewed stakeholders about Federal royalty rates, and found that while increasing royalty rates may slightly decrease production on Federal lands, higher royalty rates could increase revenue by millions of dollars annually. GAO issued the final report on June 20 with no recommendations and action required.

OIG Exit Conference/Pending Reports

Verification Review of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Safety of Dams: Emergency Preparedness (2017-WR-030). The OIG has tentatively completed its verification review of 13 recommendations presented in the evaluation report, "BIA and FWS Safety of Dams: Emergency Preparedness" (WR-EV-MOA-0002-2013). The OIG's preliminary conclusion is that all 13 recommendations are resolved and implemented. OIG does not plan to hold an exit conference.

Rules and Regulations for Publication in 2017

(Update) ***AA20: Repeal of Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform final rule.*** The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) published the proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register on April 4, 2017, and the comment period closed May 4, 2017. ONRR is finalizing the regulatory and preamble language for review by management. We received and posted 95 public comments for the proposed rulemaking. Also, we received approximately 2,269 "standard form" public comments. We are reviewing and analyzing the public comments. We plan to publish the Repeal rule by July 21 or September 14, 2017, depending on whether or not OMB chooses to review the rule.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

The afternoon of July 24, Acting AS/WS Scott Cameron and AS/WS Advisor Ryan Nichols will host the quarterly DOI Urban Team meeting. Representatives from NPS, FWS, USGS, and Reclamation have been meeting quarterly for the last three years to share information about respective bureau work in cities to encourage collaboration and, most importantly, leveraging funding and expertise in urban areas, where it is expensive to operate. The Team will be focusing efforts and resources on four cities over the next 2-3 years: Albuquerque, San Antonio, NW Indiana area, and New York City.

The morning of July 24, the District Department of Transportation's Green Infrastructure Director will host W&S, FWS, USGS, The Conservation Fund, American Forests, Bradley Site Design, and EPA at a green infrastructure project site visit featuring restoration and stormwater management components. This tour is part of the Anacostia Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a coalition of 14 federal agencies working collectively with local partners in 19 cities to restore urban waters and the surrounding lands.

In August, USGS and W&S will select projects for four Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations. In the 2017 budget omnibus, Congress dedicated $717K of USGS funds for Urban Waters-focused projects. USGS has been working with local city partners to identify high priority, water-related projects to implement.

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